

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/753,379

Examiner

Tom V. Sheng

Applicant(s)

AMARI ET AL.

Art Unit

2629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 1/8/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2 and 4.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date See Continuation Sheet
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3, Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date: 12/19/2006, 8/31/2006.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Brian K. Seidleck on 3/5/07.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, line 11, replace "letter" with --letters--; line 13, replace "an inching" with --a traverse--; line 14, after "a second direction", insert --different from the first direction--; line 18 (last line), after "first scan switch", insert --; wherein the first scan switch is disc-shaped and surrounds the decision switch--.

Cancel claim 3.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 are allowed.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The invention is directed to a user interface comprising a display displaying a menu and a centralized commander. The centralized commander has a central decision switch, a first scan switch surrounding the decision switch and operable for an inching scan on the menu in one direction, and a second switch surrounding the first scan switch and operable for a traverse scan on the menu in another direction.

Independent claim 1 identifies, inter alia, the uniquely distinct features “a first scan switch actuated by independent pressing operation relative to pressing operation of the decision switch to output directional operation command corresponding to pressing position, and operable for an inching scan of the letters in a first direction; a second scan switch surrounding the first scan switch and actuated by rotating operation to output signal corresponding to rotation angle, and operable for a traverse scan of the letters in a second direction different from the first direction” and “wherein the first scan switch is disc-shaped and surrounds the decision switch.”

Goldenberg et al. (US 6,636,197 B1), hereinafter Goldenberg, teaches a knob capable of both directional translations and rotations. Specifically, Goldenberg teaches in one implementation that directional movement is used to select a menu or sub-menu while knob rotation is the used for selecting options within the selected menu. First, the knob does not provide for claimed first scan switch allowing independent pressing operations relative to a decision switch. Second, the directional translation is used to select a menu, which would then provide another setup on screen for selecting an option via knob rotation. This is different from claimed inching and traverse scan of letters in a display.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Art Unit: 2629

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tom V. Sheng whose telephone number is (571) 272-7684. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amr Awad can be reached on (571) 272-7764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Tom Sheng

AMR A. AWAD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amr A. Awad', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.